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# Pankaj Oudhia's Notes on Tamarindus indica L. [Kirtikar, Kanhoba Ranchoddas, and Baman Das Basu. "Indian Medicinal Plants." Indian Medicinal Plants. (1918)].

- Posted by [Pankaj Oudhia](#) on May 2, 2014 at 3:42
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## Pankaj Oudhia

### Introduction

**Based on Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 in different parts of India Pankaj Oudhia has documented vital information about Medicinal Plants mentioned in the famous publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918). Through this research document Pankaj Oudhia has tried to present original document with additional notes. For complete paper with pictures, Interactive Tables, Video and Audio clips please visit [pankajoudhia.com](http://pankajoudhia.com)**

For original publication by Kirtikar and Basu (1918) please visit <https://archive.org/details/indianmedicinalp01kirt>

430. Tamarindus indica, Linn., h.f.b.i., ii. 273,

Roxb. 530.

Sans. : — Tintidi ; Amlika.

Vevn. : — Amlī ; imli (H.) ; Tentul (B. ); Amlī; Chintz (Bomb.);

Poolie (Tarn.); Balam Poolie (Mai.); Chinta-chettu (Tel.);

Karangi (Mysore j.

Habitat : — Cultivated throughout India, as far north as the Jhelam.

A large, evergreen, unarmed tree. Bark Jin. thick, dark grey, with longitudinal fissures and horizontal cracks. Wood hard, close-grained ; sap wood yellowish white, sometimes with

N. 0. leguminos<sup>^</sup>:. 483

red streaks ; heart-wood with an irregular outline, and radiating ramifications, very durable. Leaves abruptly pinnate, with 20-40, glabrescent, close, obtuse, opposite, oblong leaflets. Racemes copious, lax at the end of branchlets, with 10-15 flowers together. Pedicels articulated at the base of the Calyx. Bracts boatshaped, enclosing buds, caducous. Calyx-tube turbinate, segments 4. Petals 3, under Jin. long, unequal, variegated with red and yellow, the 2 lower reduced to scales, perfect stamens 3, filaments united to the middle of the anthers, oblong, versatile. Ovary stipitate, the stalk adnate to Calyx-tube. Pod thick, filled when mature with dark brown acid pulp transversed by fibres.

3-8in. long, lin. or more broad, 3-10-seeded. Seeds brown, shining, without albumen, the outer coat producing abundant mucilage, when steeped in water for a time.

Most authors make two species of Tamarindus, the Indian kind, with long pods, and the West Indian, with short pods; but even those who adopt this view of the subject generally raise a question of their specific identity. India is probably the aboriginal country of both, whence the species was introduced into West Indies. Even in the East the Tamarinds of the Archipelago are considered the best of those of India. The Arabs called the tree Tamr-i-hindee, or Indian Date, from which has been derived the generic name, Tamarindus. The inhabitants of the East have a notion that it is dangerous to sleep under the tree, and it has been remarked, as of our Beech in Europe, that the ground beneath is always bare, and that no plant

seems to thrive under its branches.\* **[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: *The Traditional Healers having expertise in Tree Shade Therapy rarely suggest the patients to stay under shade of Tamarind tree but it is also true that in treatment of rare diseases Tamarind tree shade is suggested by them specially at advanced stage when other remedies fail to repond. The patients are advised to pass long time under this tree. They spray Herbal Solution on the ground before arrival of patients and also patients are advised to take specific medicines while siting under this tree. I have documented this unique Traditional Medicinal Knowledge.***

<iframe width="420" height="315" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/oP1AQBcLpNs" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

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In the East, the pulpy fruits of the Tamarind are preserved without sugar, being merely dried in the sun and cured in salt.

In the West Indies, the pulp is usually packed in small kegs between layers of sugar, and hot syrup is poured on the whole. In order to enable them to keep without fermentation for a length of time, the first syrup, which is very acid,

<iframe frameborder="0" width="480" height="270" src="http://www.dailymotion.com/embed/video/xtxg51"></iframe><br /><a href="http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xtxg51\_nonary-ingredients-of-tamarindus-indica-based-herbal-formulations-pankaj-oudhia-s-medicinal-plant-da\_tech" target="\_blank">Nonary Ingredients of Tamarindus indica based...</a> <i>by <a href="http://www.dailymotion.com/pankajoudhia" target="\_blank">pankajoudhia</a></i>

^Apropos of this remark it may here be observed that the Bhangi or sweeper of the Santa Cruz Station, B. B. and C. I. Railway, has his sleeping-hut under a group of 5 or 6 tamarind trees, huge and shady, where for the

last 20 years the hut has been in use (K, R, Kirtikar).

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is poured off and a second is added. A very excellent preserve is imported from Cnraoa, made from the unripe pods, preserved in sugar, with the addition of spices. (Curtis' Botanical Magazine for February 1st, 1851).

Use : — The ripe fruit is regarded as refrigerant, digestive, carminative and laxative, and useful in diseases supposed to be caused by deranged bile, such as burning of the body, costiveness, intoxication from spirituous liquors or dhatara, &c. The shells of the ripe fruit are burnt and their ashes used in medicine as an alkaline substance, along with other medicines of the sort. The pulp of the ripe fruit, as well as a poultice of the leaves, is recommended to be applied to inflammatory swellings (Butt's Hindu Materia Medica). Mahomedan physicians consider the pulp to be cardiacal, astringent and aperient, useful for checking bilious vomiting, and for purging the system of bile

and adust humors ; when used as an aperient, it should be given with a very small quantity of fluid. A gargle of Tamarind water is recommended in sore- throat. The seeds are said to be a good astringent ; boiled, they are used as a poultice to boils ; pounded with water they are applied to the crown of the head in cough and relaxation of the uvula. The leaves crushed with water and expressed yield an acid fluid, which is said to be useful in bilious fever and scalding of the urine ; made into a poultice, they are applied to reduce inflammatory swellings, and to relieve pain. A poultice of the flowers is used in inflammatory affections of the conjunctiva ; their juice is given internally for bleeding piles. The bark is considered to have astringent and tonic

properties (Dymook).

**[Pankaj Oudhia's Comment: Through Ethnobotanical surveys since year 1990 I have collected information about over 800,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations in which Tamarind plant parts are added as important ingredient. Tamarind roots are added in over 100,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations as tertiary ingredient. The root based Formulations are popular among the Traditional Experts treating neurological disorders. Tamarind leaves in fresh as well as dry form are added in 45,000 Traditional Herbal Formulations as secondary ingredient. Tamarind trees are treated with different herbal extracts up to long time before collection of parts. The senior natives as well as Traditional Healers have in-depth Traditional Allelopathic Knowledge. Tamarind bark is used in treatment of different types of cancer specially at primary stage. It is popular among the cancer experts as cancer preventive. Please see Tables Tamarind-1 to Tamarind-250 for exhaustive information about Tamarind based Traditional Herbal Formulations.]**

Analysis was made of the entire seeds, and also of the kernel without the

brown covering. They had the following composition : —

Water

Albuminoids

Pat ...

Carbohydrates ...

Fibre,..

Ash ...

Nitrogen

Phosphoric anhydride

Seeds.



Kernels.

10-50

9-35

13-87

18 06

4-50

6-60

63-22

62-88

5\*36

•66

2-55

2-45

100-00

100\*00

222

2-89

•40

•55

N. 0. LEGUMINOSJE. 485

There is a decided difference in the composition of the shelled and unshelled seeds. The shells contain the undesirable constituents, namely, the tannin matter and fibre, and the kernels represent a nutritious food, white in appearance and with no disagreeable odour and taste.

The oil obtained by ether is thick and light yellow in colour. It solidifies

at 15° C, and gave the following constants : —

Acid value ... .. 0\*84

Saponification value ... .. 183°

Iodine value ... .. 871

Fatty acids... .. 94-9

Melting point ... .. 46°

The fatty acids crystallised twice from alcohol afforded an acid melting at 74\*°5, resembling arachidic acid of ground-nut.

Elaidin reaction gives a buttery consistence. The oil is semidrying, forming a skin only after 12 days. (Agricultural Ledger, 1907, No. 2 pp. 15-16.)

E-documents on Tamarindus

<http://ecoport.org/ep?SearchType=earticleList&Author=oudhia&...>

## Citation

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